(b) whether it is also a fact that families of such teachers are badly affected due to such transfers; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to simplify the rules pertaining to transfers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) Transfer of teachers on promotion is made with reference to their place-of posting and not with reference to their home town. Transfer is an exigency of service. Howeve, in order to minimize the inconvenience on account of transfer, the guidelines envisage that lady teachers, on their promotion, are posted within the same region and male teachers are given placement in the neighbouring region on their promotion subjects to availability of vacancies.

Gold from sea water

5476. SHRIKARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a study conducted recently, it is possible to extract gold out of sea water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any feasibility study of the project including its financial viability has been carried out and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It is possible to extract gold from the sea water under laboratory conditions. Recently, a claim has been made by a scientist about the development to technology for extraction of gold from sea water. However, as the sea water contains only very low concentration of gold, the economic viability of extraction of gold from sea water is doubtful.

Medicines from seas

5477. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: